8. Public awareness programmes regarding problems, prevention, education and rehabilitation of handicapped are highlighted through the mass media like TV and Radio etc.

9. The Ministry does not have any scheme for providing Braille presses which can be set up in various States by the State Governments.

10. The National Sample Survey Organisation conducted a comprehensive survey regarding prevalence of disability during 1981 in which the blind population in the country was also assessed. The Organisation has been asked to conduct another survey in 1991.

11. Ministry of Welfare have set up 11 District Rehabilitation Centres on pilot basis to provide comprehensive services for the disabled including the blind in rural areas. During the year 1990-91 a new scheme is proposed to be started under which assistance shall be given to voluntary organisations working for the welfare of the handicapped including the blind in rural areas to expand their activities in the area of early detection, intervention, educational and therapeutical services. A number of organisations like the National Association for the Blind, the Blind Men's Association, Ahmedabad, etc. are carrying on rehabilitation programmes for the rural blind in different States. Some of these programmes are also being assisted by the Ministry of Welfare through its grant-in-aid scheme to voluntary organisations. These organisations are also receiving assistance from other sources.

Grant for the Development of Madras City

*273. SHRI T. R. BALU : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu have requested the Central Government for a grant for the development of Madras city in commemoration of its 300 years; and

(b) if so, the amount granted for the said purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request of this nature was received from the Government of Tamil Nadu in 1987. This request was examined and the State Government were advised to include the development schemes for the Corporation of Madras in their Eighth Five Year Plan proposals. The State Government have, however, again renewed their request on 15-3-1990.

Amendment of the working Journalists' Act

*274. SHRIMATH VEENA VERMA KUMARI ALIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Working Journalists' Act to ensure the implementation of the Wage Board recommendations and if so, what are the main proposals for amendment; and

(b) whether Government are considering any penal provisions also ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b). There are no proposals presently under consideration to amend the Act.

Involvement of Public and the private sectors for New Employment opportunities for Youth

*275. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA :

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are contemplating to involve both the public sector and the private sector in programmes for